

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIO DE 03817 111246Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5199
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 3817

FOR ARA/ECA AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS FROM DEXTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, BR
SUBJECT: MEETING OF BRAZIL/US BUSINESS COUNCIL, WASHINGTON, OCTOBER

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT JUST RECEIVED TODAY OF A LETTER TO YOU SIGNED BY THREE PRESIDENTS OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN BRAZIL REGARDING A MEETING OF THE BRAZIL/US BUSINESS COUNCIL NOW SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER IN WASHINGTON. THE SIGNERS REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE IN ASSURING PARTICIPATION BY SENIOR US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN A MANNER COMPARABLE TO GOB TREATMENT OF FIRST COUNCIL MEETING IN BRASILIA LAST YEAR. THEY WANT PARTICULARLY TO ENLIST YOUR HELP DURING YOUR CURRENT CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON.

2. QUOTE AS YOU HAVE NO DOUBT BECOME AWARE, THE MEETING OF THE BRAZIL/US BUSINESS COUNCIL WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JULY 18, 19 AND 20 IN WASHINGTON, DC WAS SUSPENDED.

3. QUOTE YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL WAS A PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE, BUT THAT IT RECEIVED STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PRESIDENT ERNESTO GEISEL. YOU WILL ALSO REMEMBER THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WAS HELD IN BRASILIA IN AUGUST LAST YEAR AND
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THAT IT WAS WELL ATTENDED AND RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN THE PRESS. THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF INTERCHANGE BETWEEN THE BRAZILIAN AND US BUSINESSMEN PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND FOCUS WAS BROUGHT TO BEAR ON CERTAIN MATTERS WHICH WERE HAMPERING ADVANCES, IN THE FIELDS OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE, BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FOUR MINISTERS PERSONALLY EXTENDED WELCOMES, AND THREE OF THEM ADDRESSED

THE COUNCIL. ON CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, PRESIDENT GEISEL RECEIVED MEMBERS OF THE US AND BRAZILIAN SECTIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THEIR JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. QUOTE AS WE UNDERSTAND THE FACTS, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THIS, THE SECOND, MEETING WAS THE CONCERN BY THE US SECTION COUNCIL LEADERSHIP AND THE BRAZILIAN SECTION LEADERSHIP (UNDER EX-MINISTER MARCUS VINICIUS PRATINI DE MORAES) OVER PERSONS OF STANDING IN THE US GOVERNMENT NOT COMMITTING THEMSELVES, OR CONSIDERING COMMITTING THEMSELVES, TO HOST FUNCTIONS, OR TO APPEAR AT FUNCTIONS, AT WHICH COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD BE PRESENT. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AN UNFORTUNATE PLANNING ERROR IN THE SELECTION OF DATES, BUT WE CANNOT ASSUME THAT THIS WAS THE CASE AND THAT A DATE CHANGE, BY ITSELF, WILL SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS.

5. QUOTE AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THERE WAS GOOD REASON FOR CONCERN BECAUSE, IN THE LIGHT OF ALL OF THE DELICATE ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AN APPEARANCE OF LACK OF INTEREST BY THE US GOVERNMENT IN THE BRAZIL/US BUSINESS COUNCIL COULD PROVOKE FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT OF EVIDENCE OF LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES IN GENERAL AND, FURTHERMORE, COULD, WE BELIEVE, UNDERMINE THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF THE COUNCIL AND BRING ABOUT ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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DEMISE.

6. QUOTE WE, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BRAZIL, BELIEVE THAT THE BRAZIL/US BUSINESS COUNCIL HAS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND CAN, ACCORDINGLY, HAVE A BEARING ON OVERALL RELATIONS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT THE MEETING (RECENTLY RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 17, 18, 19 AND 20) SHOULD TAKE PLACE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT FOR THE MEETING TO BE SUCCESSFUL IT IS VITAL THAT AN APPROPRIATE WELCOME BE EXTENDED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS BY PROMINENT PERSONALITIES FROM THE US GOVERNMENT.

7. QUOTE WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DOING ANYTHING WITHIN YOUR POWER TO ENSURE THAT AN APPROPRIATE CLIMATE CAN EXIST FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER. UNQUOTE SIGNED BY ARNOLD WOLFSON, PRESIDENT AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR BRAZIL - RIO DE JANEIRO; DAVID A WICKER, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR BRAZIL - SAO PAULO; AND EOGHAN M. MCMILLAN, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF

COMMERCE FOR BRAZIL.
DEXTER

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